

brakes under the guidance of Mr. Boynton, who had charge of the local arrangements, and after visiting Flamborough lighthouse and the cliffs adjoining, proceeded to Bempton, where fine views were obtained of the cliff-climbers and their method of work. Mr. Nelson, of Redcar, had kindly distributed a specially printed extract relating to the cliff-climbing from his forthcoming 'Birds of Yorkshire,' and personally acted as eicerone. Luncheon was served at the cliff edge in a tent, and, after a photograph had been taken, the majority returned to Bridlington and London, thus terminating what was universally acknowledged as a highly successful and pleasant gathering.

XLI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 498.]

89. '*Avicultural Magazine.*'

[*Avicultural Magazine.* The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. iii. Nos. 4-9. London: Feb.-July 1905.]

In these numbers our contemporary continues its career of interesting and useful work, and succeeds in adding greatly to our knowledge of the habits of birds. Allowance must, of course, be made to some extent for the different conditions in which birds live in cages, aviaries, and the wild state; but with regard to their notes, their nests and eggs, not to mention other details, we are much indebted to the careful observations made by various members of the Avicultural Society. Among so large a number of articles of varying style, it would be invidious to make any selection, but we may mention Dr. Butler's *résumé* of our knowledge of the Duration of Incubation.

Mr. Beebe's "Notes on the Psychology of Birds" is of very general interest; while the papers by Capt. Horsbrugh on the Bloemfontein district, by Mr. L. M. Seth-Smith on that of Uganda, and by Mr. Trevor-Battye on the breeding of

Ammoperdix heyi take us, in spirit, to scenes of exceptional interest.

The management of Aviaries and the successful breeding of various species therein combine with accounts of holiday-tours to fill the pages of the Journal.

90. *Bangs on new American Subspecies.*

[(1) Two new Subspecies of Tropical American Tyrant-birds. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvii. p. 113.

(2) Descriptions of Seven new Subspecies of American Birds. By Outram Bangs. *Op. cit.* xviii. p. 151.]

The two Tyrant-birds are *Serphophaga cinerea cana*, a northern form of *S. cinerea*, and *Todirostrum cinereum finitimum*, an extreme northern form of the widely ranging *T. cinereum*. The seven subspecies described in the second paper are *Crypturus soui mustelinus* from Santa Marta, *Scardifella inca* from Honduras, *Claravis pretiosa livida* from Colombia, *Geotrygon martinica digressa* from Guadeloupe, *Dacnis cayana callaina* from Chiriqui, and *Callospiza lavinia cara* and *Phænicothraupis rubica confinis*, both from Honduras.

91. *Bangs on Coccyzus cinereus.*

[A Correction of Barrow's Record of *Coccyzus punilus* from Concepcion del Uruguay. By Outram Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xvii. p. 165.]

Mr. Bangs has examined the specimens of the three Cuckoos from Uruguay, the first two of which were referred by Mr. Barrow in the 'Auk' for 1884 (i. p. 28) to *C. punilus*, and the third to *C. cinereus*, and finds that they all belong to *C. cinereus*. *C. punilus* is a form of Venezuela and Colombia, and not likely to occur in Uruguay.

92. *Bangs and Zappey on the Birds of the Isle of Pines.*

[Birds of the Isle of Pines. By Outram Bangs and W. E. Zappey. Am. Nat. xxxix. pp. 179-215, April 1905.]

The Isle of Pines lies in the Caribbean Sea some sixty miles south of the western end of Cuba, and, though

frequently alluded to in the writings of Poey, Gundlach, Cory, and Ridgway, has not yet had a monographer at work upon its birds. Mr. Bangs has therefore done well in joining Mr. Zappey (who has twice visited the island and made large collections of its birds and field-notes upon them) in preparing the account of its Avifauna now before us. The Isle of Pines is so near to Cuba, and has been so recently separated from it, in a geological sense, that it could not be expected to produce many endemic forms. But some few of its 83 feathered inhabitants have become so far differentiated from the Cuban representatives as, according to the views of the authors, to justify their separation. The changes undergone are, we are told, "chiefly in sizes and proportions," the colours remaining nearly the same. Thus *Ardea repens* (subsp. nov.) is similar to *A. occidentalis*, but "very much smaller"; *Grus nesiotes* (sp. nov.) is like *G. mexicana*, but smaller and darker; *Saurothera merlini bicolor* (subsp. nov.) is also smaller than the Cuban form; *Prionotelus temnurus vacuus* is again smaller than *P. t. typicus*; *Myiadestes elizabethæ retrusus* is of the same size as *M. elizabethæ* of Cuba, but much paler in colour; and *Spindalis pretrei pinus* is considerably larger than the typical species from the main island. We may remark that the supposed new subspecies of *Myiadestes* is based on a single specimen, which, in our opinion, is hardly sufficient for the establishment of a subspecies.

Mr. Zappey contributes some good field-notes to this paper and some nice illustrations to the text, taken from his photographs.

93. Chapman on the American Flamingo.

[A Contribution to the Life-history of the American Flamingo (*Phaenicopterus ruber*), with Remarks upon Specimens. By Frank B. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. xxi. p. 58.]

This is the scientific version of Mr. Chapman's successful researches among the breeding-grounds of the American Flamingo in the Bahamas, of which we have already noticed the popular narrative published in the 'Century Magazine'

and 'Bird-Lore' (see above, p. 272). After a summary of the previous information on the subject, Mr. Chapman gives us an account of his two visits to the Bahamas in 1902 and 1904, and of the results of the observations made on these occasions. These results embrace full particulars as to the nesting-ground, nest, eggs, and mode of incubation, together with full descriptions of the young during the various stages of their growth, illustrated by a series of text-figures prepared from photographs taken by the author. It follows that so far from the breeding-habits of the Flamingo being any longer mysterious we are now made better acquainted with them than with those of many well-known species which are quite familiar to us.

Mr. Chapman points out that on comparing measurements of the embryos and young of the Flamingo with those of the adult, a surprising increase in the length of the tarsus as age advances is manifest. The tarsus, which in the embryo is but a little longer than the middle toe and claw, and about one-tenth of the total length of the bird, becomes in the adult three times the length of the middle toe and claw, and approximately one-fifth of the total length of the bird. This would clearly indicate that the Flamingo is descended from a short-legged ancestor, and is perhaps little more than a "long-legged Goose," as some authors have called it. The remarkable form of the bill, as Mr. Chapman shews, is also a character which does not exist in the newly-hatched bird, and must have been recently acquired.

As Mr. Chapman has probably a good supply of specimens in store we would beg him to continue his excellent work by having an accurate comparison made between the ptilosis of *Phænicopterus* and that of the Anseres on one side, and the Herodiones on the other, to ascertain which of the two groups it most nearly resembles.

94. *Germain and Oustalet on the Birds of Lower Cochin China.*

[Catalogue des Oiseaux de la Basse-Cochinchine. Par Rodolphe Germain et E. Oustalet. Bull. Soc. Nat. d'Acclim., Juin 1905, p. 169.]

This is the commencement of a series of articles on the

birds of Lower Cochin China, where the first-named author carried on observations for more than five years, while M. Oustalet, whose work on the Ornithology of French Indo-China is well known (see above, p. 488), supplies the scientific part of the memoir.

The present article enumerates the Parrots and Vultures of Lower Cochin China and contains M. Germain's field-notes on these birds.

95. *Hantzsch on the Birds of Iceland.*

[Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Vogelwelt Islands. Von Bernhard Hantzsch. Berlin, 1905. Pp. i-vi, 1-341; 26 illustrations in the text and a map.]

This book should certainly be carefully studied by all interested in Palearctic Birds, for it enters into the subject of the Avifauna of Iceland much more fully than did the Rev. H. H. Slater in 1901, when he published his 'Manual of the Birds of Iceland.' The author informs us that he has every intention of visiting the country again, and does not wish the present account to be considered final, as the material for such a work is scattered throughout many Museums, and the literature consists to a great extent of papers in periodicals and chapters in books of a general nature. But even as it stands Mr. Hantzsch has accomplished a very useful piece of work and one which will doubtless be for long a standard work on the Birds of Iceland, while his separate lists of the species occurring in Grimsey and the Westmann Islands will be found of the greatest use.

A general survey of the subjects is followed by accounts of the most important literature, of the author's journeys in Iceland, of the character of the country and its characteristic birds, of the changes in the Avifauna within historic times (especially as regards the Great Auk), of the status of various species and of their importance to the natives; while a second part contains a detailed account of each bird, and includes several not recorded before from the country. The native names, the range, and the synonymy are prefixed in every case, while the systematic arrangement is that of Schalow in his 'Vögel der Arktis.'

96. *Herman on Ornithophænology.*

[The Method for Ornithophænology inaugurated by the Hungarian Central Office of Ornithology. By Otto Herman. Budapest, 1905. Pp. 1-13.]

This memoir is both an explanation of the method of investigating the Migration of Birds used by the Hungarian Office, and an appeal to other nationalities to use the same; but the author does not seem to give sufficient weight to the Migration Reports of other countries (such as those for the British Islands and Denmark or the nearer kingdom of Saxony), which he appears to regard as based on "chance occurrences." But we quite agree with him in his wish for great accuracy and for the establishment of a large number of observation-stations. In Hungary the Migration of the Swallow was observed at 5903 stations, and ten maps are given to shew the results. Other birds are to be observed in future, and account is to be taken in "recent" observations (1) of the hypsometrical conditions (with the mean of the earliest and latest arrivals), and (2) of the geographical position of the stations. Cards are to be sent in the first place to "professional ornithologists" to be filled up for all species and to "schooled foresters" for two species. All notices earlier than 1891 are considered "historical." Mr. Herman is, moreover, gathering details of migration from the Knysna to Spitsbergen and Kamtschatka.

97. *Herman on Theories of Bird-Migration.*

[Recensio Critica Automatica of the Doctrine of Bird-Migration. By Otto Herman. Budapest, 1905. Pp. i-ix, 1-74.]

In this pamphlet Mr. Herman, while acknowledging the assistance of many excellent colleagues, asks that further facts may be furnished. He criticises the routes of Migrating Birds suggested by various authors, and pronounces them, in the majority of cases at least, only to exist in the writers' imaginations, for Birds cannot possibly follow all of them. He reviews the "Theses" or Ideas to be found in former literature, beginning from Frederic II.; and gives those of the Hungarian Central Office of Ornithology, as elaborated

by himself, Gaston de Gaal, Jacob Hegyfoky, and Jules Pungur: shewing how contradictory many of the views already put forward have been. He rightly lays stress upon three important points: (1) the progress of migration, (2) its connection with meteorology, (3) its causal impulse. He suggests the organisation of an International Committee, to indicate a place of observation, to ensure uniformity, and to prevent such observations being local only.

98. *Journal of the South-African Ornithologists' Union.*

[The Journal of the South-African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. i. No. 1. July 1905.]

We have already recorded the establishment of an Ornithologists' Union in South Africa, and the intention of the Union to start a Journal of their own (see *suprà*, p. 141). The first number of this Journal was issued in July last and is now before us. Besides a Preface, signed by the three editors (Messrs. W. L. Selater, J. W. B. Gunning, and J. A. Bucknill), it contains an account of the proceedings connected with the formation of the Union, and the inaugural address of the President (Mr. W. L. Selater) delivered at the Johannesburg meeting in April 1904. This address relates to the work performed by Le Vaillant, Burchell, Sir Andrew Smith, Andersson, Layard, and other leading authorities on South-African Birds.

Besides the Presidential Address, the first number of this Journal contains four other papers, all relating to South-African Birds. Major Sparrow gives us some supplementary notes on the nesting-habits and eggs of certain birds described in Stark and Selater's new work on South-African Birds; Mr. F. J. Ellemor writes on the nest and eggs of *Coliopasser ardens*; Mr. G. C. Shortridge describes the birds which he met with round Hanover, Cape Colony, and transmitted to the South-African Museum; and Mr. Austin Roberts contributes an account of a visit to a nesting-place of the Sacred Ibis (*Ibis aethiopica*) in the Transvaal near Balmoral, of which he wisely withholds the exact locality. We have then an obituarial notice of Mr. J. v. O. Marais, M.B.O.U., who

unfortunately lost his life from blackwater-fever in Northern Rhodesia in February last at the early age of thirty-three. Mr. Marais is stated to have been an "ardent, indefatigable, and capable" ornithologist, and was on a collecting-expedition at the time of his death. He was at one time employed in the Forest Department at Knysna, and was the discoverer of the Bush-Shrike (*Laniarius maraisi*) named after him by Mr. W. L. Sclater ('Ibis,' 1901, p. 183).

99. *Kollibay on the Palearctic Swifts.*

[Die paläarktischen Apodiden. Von Paul Kollibay. J. f. O., April 1905.]

The discovery by the author of a new "subspecies" of Swift on the Dalmatian Island of Curzola, which has been named *Apus apus kollibayi* by Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen (cf. Ornith. Jahrb. xiii. p. 234), has induced him to examine a considerable series of European Swifts in his own collection and in those of his friends and correspondents. In the first place, Herr Kollibay maintains that the pale form of *Cypselus apus* named *C. pallidus* by Shelley (but which Herr Kollibay calls by Brehm's name *murinus*) is a perfectly distinct species, and embraces (as suggested by Hartert) two subspecies—*C. murinus typicus* and *C. m. brehmorum*. In the second place, after studying many specimens from Dalmatia he declares that the separation of *Cypselus kollibayi* as a distinct subspecies of *C. apus* is fully justified. Moreover, after examining the series of Tunisian Swifts in the collection of the late Carlo von Erlanger, he comes to the conclusion that the Tunisian form also belongs to a distinct subspecies, which he names *Apus apus carlo* (!).

100. *Madarász on a new Bradypterus.*

[Ueber eine neue *Bradypterus*-Art. Von Dr. Julius v. Madarász. Ann. Mus. Nat. Hung. iii. p. 113 (1905).]

The National Museum of Hungary has received, in a collection transmitted by Koloman Katona from Kiboscho, in German East Africa, an example of a new species of *Bradypterus*, which is described under the name *B. mariæ*. It is most nearly allied to *B. alfredi* Hartl. and *B. barratti* Sharpe.

101. *Mearns on new Philippine Birds.*

[Descriptions of Eight new Philippine Birds, with Notes on other Species new to the Islands. By Edgar A. Mearns. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xviii. p. 83 (1905).]

The new species described are *Turnix suluensis* from Sulu, *Muscadivora langhornei* from Basilan, *Caprimulgus affinis mindanensis* from Mindanao, *Phyllergates heterolæmus* from Mt. Apo, Mindanao, *Cephalophoneus suluensis* from Sulu, *Hyloterpe apensis* from Mt. Apo, *Diceum davao* from Mindanao, and *Lamprocorax todayensis* from Mt. Apo. The generic term *Leonardia* Mearns (Pr. B. S. W. xviii. p. 1), being preoccupied, a change to *Leonardina* is proposed.

A list of recent additions to the Philippine Avifauna is added.

102. *Nelson on Names of certain North-American Birds.*

[Notes on the Names of certain North-American Birds. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xviii. p. 121 (1905).]

Mr. Nelson wishes to alter the names of certain well-known species of North-American Birds, but we see no reason for following his lead. In some of the cases discussed it is quite a matter of opinion whether the obsolete names which he has disturbed from oblivion are certainly applicable to the species to which he refers them. It may be "evident" to him that "*Tangavius involucratus*" "applies to a form of *Callothrus*." It is not so to us, and the type is non-existent and cannot be referred to in order to settle the question definitely. In the case of *Cathartes aura* the facts stated are of interest, especially as to the results of the examination of *Cathartes burrovianus*. But in his ardour for "unlimited priority" Mr. Nelson refuses to consider the inconvenience of altering the long-established name of such a well-known bird as *Cathartes aura*. We cannot agree with him, and believe that he will find few to follow his example.

103. *Nelson on a new Mexican Goatsucker.*

[Description of a new Species of Whip-poor-will. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xviii. p. 111 (1905).]

This "strongly-marked species," now named *Antrostomus notabilis*, is the same as the bird called *Antrostomus macromystax* in Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway's 'Birds of North America' (ii. p. 400), but incorrectly so, according to Mr. Nelson. The type from Tamaulipas, Mexico (*Sennett*), is in the American Museum of Natural History.

104. *Oates and Reid on the Birds' Eggs in the British Museum.*

[Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History). Vol. IV. Carinatae (Passeriformes continued). By Eugene W. Oates, assisted by Capt. Sayle G. Reid. London. Printed by Order of the Trustees. 1905. 352 pp.; xiv. coloured plates.]

In the fourth volume of the Catalogue of the Birds' Eggs in the National Collection the enumeration and description of the eggs of the Oscinine Passeres is continued. The Families treated of are the same as those in the fourth volume of the 'Hand-list,' the nomenclature and arrangement of which are closely followed.

Altogether 17 Families containing 620 Species are treated in this volume. The specimens of eggs number 14,917. A description is given of the general characters of the eggs of every species and their measurements are added. After this the exact locality of each batch of eggs and the authority is stated, the number of eggs in each batch being also added. But no description of the mode of nesting or of the nest itself is given, although in many cases these must be well known. Such particulars might certainly have been stated under each generic head, and would have much increased the value of the 'Catalogue.'

Fourteen coloured plates are attached to the fourth volume of the 'Catalogue,' and are, no doubt, correctly drawn and coloured. About twenty eggs are figured on each plate, many of which are of great beauty and entire novelty. But as we turn them over and admire them we are seized with

the desire to know what bird has laid such a curious egg as that (for example) which is figured on plate iii. fig. 11. On referring to the "Explanation of the Plates" we are told that plate iii. fig. 11 represents the egg of *Eupetes lorice*. But in order to find the reference to this species in the 'Catalogue' we must again make a search in the General Index, for the page in which the description of the egg is to be found is not stated in the "Explanation of the Plates." This is an omission which it would have been easy to supply, and which causes the enquiring "oologist" much trouble.

We also venture to think that it would have been better to have arranged the eggs of the birds of the same genus together on the same plate, so as to facilitate comparison between them, and not to place them far from each other, as is done in some cases (see eggs of *Turdus*, *Locustella*, *Aëdon*, and *Tephrodornis*).

105. *Owston on the Birds of Japan.*

[List of Japanese Birds and Eggs. By Allan Owston. Yokohama, Japan, 1904.]

This is a sale-list of Japanese Birds and Eggs, containing the names of 459 species. The prices seem to be very moderate. There are several species mentioned that we are not acquainted with—e. g. *Parus owstoni* Ijima, and others of Bangs and Stejneger.

106. *Parrot on the Cyanopica of Japan.*

[*Cyanopica cyanus japonica*, nov. subsp. Von Dr. Parrot. Orn. Monatsb. 1905.]

The form of *Cyanopica cyanus* found in Japan (Nippon, 1901) is separated as a new subspecies, *C. c. japonica*.

107. *Sarudny and Loudon on Two new Persian Birds.*

[Vorläufige Beschreibung zweier ornithologischen Neuheiten aus West-Persien. Von N. Sarudny und Harald, Baron Loudon. Orn. Mon. 1905, p. 76.]

A subspecies of *Pæcile lugubris* from the mountains of

Ghilan is described as *P. l. hyrcanus*, and the Rock-Nuthatch of the central part of the Persian plateau is separated as *Sitta syriaca obscura*.

108. *Schioler on the Wild Duck of Greenland.*

[Om den grønlandske Stokand, *Anas boschas spilogaster*. Af E. Lehn Schioler. Vid. Middel. Kbhvn. 1905.]

The Wild Duck of Greenland has hitherto been referred to the typical *Anas boschas*, but the author, after comparison of a full series of specimens of it with examples of the Wild Duck from Denmark and other countries, comes to the conclusion that it ought to be regarded as a different subspecies, which he proposes to call *Anas boschas spilogaster*, with the following characters:—"Quam forma typica major, rostro paulo brevior. Mas, habitu nuptiali dorso pallidior, pectore nigro notato. Femina et avis junior colore cinereo."

Three photographic plates illustrate this paper.

109. *Slater (W. L.) on Nature-Study for South Africa.*

[Nature-Study for South Africa. By W. L. Slater. Rep. S. Afr. Assoc. Adv. Sci., Johannesburg Meeting, 1904.]

Mr. Slater has been commending "Nature-Study" to the South Africans—the more so that he has been much struck by the lack of recorded observations on the Mammals and Birds of South Africa during the preparation of his series of hand-books. If a course of Nature-Study were introduced into the schools he hopes that some of the pupils would not only become lovers of Nature, but would be able and willing to assist in furthering the scanty knowledge of the creatures living around them that now prevails. Mr. Slater gives as instance the ignorance of the dates of the arrival and departure in South Africa of the Common Swallow and other familiar European birds that visit the Colony on migration. Very few, and not always satisfactory, observations have as yet been recorded on this interesting subject, which requires little scientific knowledge, but only patience and accuracy.

110. *Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'*

[The Birds of Africa, comprising all the Species which occur in the Ethiopian Region. By G. E. Shelley, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., &c. Vol. IV. pt. 2. London: Porter, 1905.]

This half-volume is devoted entirely to typical Weaver-birds, Ploceinae, the third and last Subfamily of the numerous and important African Family Ploceidae. Capt. Shelley recognises 124 species of these birds and divides them into 25 genera.

The account of these species seems to comprise all that is known of them, and the "keys" to the species given under every generic head afford great facilities for their recognition. The text is illustrated by seven well-drawn and beautifully coloured plates, which represent the following species:—*Amblyospiza capitalba*, *Histurgops ruficauda*, *Ploceipasser pectoralis*, *Anaplectes blundelli*, *A. erythrogenys*, *Cinnamopteryx tricolor*, *Sycobrotus stictifrons*, *Sitagra aliena*, *Hyphantornis nigriceps*, *H. spekii*, *Xanthophilus temporalis*, *H. nyasæ*, *X. holoxanthus*, and *X. princeps*.

111. *Thayer and Bangs on the Birds of Gorgona Island.*

[The Vertebrata of Gorgona Island, Colombia. Aves, by John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool. vol. xlv. No. 5 (1905).]

Gorgona is a small island in the Bay of Panama about twenty miles off Punta los Reyes, the nearest point of the Colombian coast. It is completely covered by a dense tropical forest, without trails or open places. The only naturalists that are known to have visited the island are Capt. Kellett and Lieut. Wood, who stopped there many years ago on their way to the Galapagos, and procured a specimen of a Tanager (*Tachyphonus delattrii*) which is now in the British Museum (see Selater Cat. B. B. M. xi. p. 215).

In February 1904 Mr. John E. Thayer "equipped and put into the field" the well-known zoological collector Mr. Wilmot Brown, who, among other places in this district, visited Gorgona Island and remained two weeks there, but

only obtained or recognised examples of 16 kinds of birds, the island being apparently very poor in individuals as well as in species of this Class.

The authors now give us an account of these birds, and describe as new *Sula etesiaca* (allied to *S. leucogastra*), *Uru-bitinga subtilis*, *Thamnophilus gorgonæ*, *Cyanerpes gigas*, and *Cæreba gorgonæ*.

What the Humming-bird called by the authors "*Amizilis tzaatl*" may be it is difficult to say. Those who revive and employ these obsolete and remarkable terms should, at any rate, add the generally used name of the species for the information of their less-learned brethren.

112. *Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on the Ornithological Literature of the Austrian Empire.*

[Ornithologische Literatur Oesterreich-Ungarns und des Occupationgebietes, 1903. Von Victor Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. zu Wien, 1905.]

This useful list, now apparently established as an annual publication, gives a complete alphabetical catalogue of the titles of the books and papers relating to Ornithology published in Austria-Hungary and the Occupied Provinces during 1903. As many of these papers are written in the Hungarian, Czech, Croatian, and Slovenian languages, it is very convenient to have an understandable translation of their titles in German.

113. '*Verhandlungen*' of the Ornithological Society of Bavaria.

[Verhandlungen der ornithologischen Gesellschaft in Bayern (fortsetzung der Jahresberichte der ornithologischen Vereins München). Band IV. In Auftrage der Gesellschaft herausgegeben von Dr. med. C. Parrot. 8vo. Münche, 1904. 184 pp.]

The former "Ornithologische Verein München" has now changed its name to the "Ornithologische Gesellschaft in Bayern," and, as will be remarked, has also slightly altered the title of its periodical organ. The fourth volume of the old '*Jahresberichte*' is, therefore, become the first of the

present 'Verhandlungen.' The volume contains, besides the proceedings of the Society for 1903 and a list of its members, several original contributions to our knowledge of Bavarian Ornithology, which will be of interest to students of Palearctic Bird-life. Our active friend Dr. Carl Parrot, of Munich, the President of the Society, is also the editor of its periodical.

XLII.—*Obituary.*

WILLIAM THOMAS BLANFORD, C.I.E., LL.D., F.R.S.,
and Lieut. SUTTON AYLMER DAVIES.

It is my sad task to chronicle the death of one of our most talented members, one who became a Fellow of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1873, and whose well-known face and figure have been seen for many years taking an active part at all scientific gatherings. He passed away on the 23rd of June last, at the age of 72, at his residence in Bedford Gardens, Campden Hill. Although for some time his friends had noticed his failing strength, the news of his death came as an unexpected shock to many. Science has lost in William Blanford one of its most profound thinkers, and the Societies to which he belonged mourn for a Fellow who early in his career began to enrich the pages of their Journals.

The list of the works and papers contributed by Dr. Blanford reaches nearly 180. The product of some years is surprising, not only for the number of papers that were written, but for the wide range of subjects which they cover in Geology, Geography, and Zoology; and in this last are comprised papers on Mammals, Reptiles, Birds, and Mollusca: all excellent of their kind. Space does not admit of the record of his long service when employed on the Geological Survey of India, to which he was appointed in 1855—this will be alluded to in other obituary notices, as it has been in 'Nature'; neither need I touch on his early life and education, and the honours he gained, for the details of these will be found in an excellent account by